

the requirements for expansion and modernization. Group 4's construction partners, Richard Sampson Associates, Inc., of Pleasanton and Dennis J. Amoroso Construction Company, Inc., of San Francisco joined to make this outstanding plan a reality.

Today, after 8 years planning, 17 months of construction, and an investment of \$10 million, the splendid Burlingame Public Library is about to be reopened to the community. The building's original style has been maintained, as the two 1930's wings remain intact and other important details, such as the authentic wood windows and solid oak tables and chairs, are still there. While the essence of Norberg's creation will continue to be a Burlingame landmark for generations to come, the new library has nearly doubled in size, from 26,100 to 47,300 square feet, and its foundation has been reconstructed to flex in a seismic event. It will offer over 50 computer terminals to speed and simplify information access for both children and adults. The new library will even have available a new service, self check out, which will make taking out books as easy as obtaining money from an ATM machine and make lengthy lines at check-out counters obsolete. It is truly a community institution for the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the people of Burlingame on the opening of their new library, and in commending the tireless community activists who brought this dream to fruition.

IN HONOR OF THE REVEREND  
WILLIAM AUGUSTUS JONES, JR.

**HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 24, 1997*

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Reverend William Augustus Jones, Jr., pastor of the Bethany Baptist Church.

Pastor Jones came to Brooklyn in 1962. Within 5 years he had led a congregation to the building of a neogothic edifice now known as the Bethany Baptist Church. Under his masterful direction, and with the help of a full-time 27 member staff, the church conducts a multifaceted program to the community which includes outreach ministries via national radio and television.

Pastor Jones has served as national chairman of SCLC's Operation Breadbasket and as a member of the general council of the Baptist World Alliance. He was former president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention and founder of the National Black Pastor's Conference. In 1972, he was the recipient of the prestigious Frederick Douglas Award presented by the New York Urban League. For many years now he has been recognized by a number of distinguished organizations and awarded a variety of accolades, including, in 1996, a doctor of literature degree by the Evangelical Reformed School of Theology in Toledo, OH.

In addition to his clerical duties, he finds time to educate by serving as a visiting professor at a number of theological seminaries. He has also found time to pen such works as, "The Black Church Looks at the Bicentennial,

Responsible Preaching" and "The African American Church: Past, Present and Future."

I urge my colleagues here today to join me in recognizing this outstanding individual, Pastor Jones, who has dedicated his life to the spiritual enhancement and educational improvement of the community. I wish to thank you, Pastor Jones, for sharing your gift with us all. Also, for showing us that a wholly spiritual life is indeed a fulfilling life.

#### TUNING IN TO COMPETITION

**HON. JAMES A. BARCIA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 24, 1997*

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, 18 months ago the President signed into law, the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Since that time, many people have complained that the competition that was supposed to develop hasn't yet materialized. While it's true that there hasn't been as much competition as those of us who supported the bill would have hoped—for example, not a single Bell Co. has been allowed to compete in the long-distance business—telephone companies are definitely providing competition in those areas where they are permitted to compete.

Monday's Wall Street Journal reported on competition in the delivery of cable television service, and detailed how customers have benefited from Ameritech's entry into that market. Customer service has improved. Innovative packaging of services has increased. Competition is serving the customer just as we knew it would.

Ameritech has already opened up its local market to competition. Local phone subscribers in Michigan have the ability to change their telephone companies, and many are doing so. Now it is time for the FCC to learn from success and open up competition in long distance, so that all the benefits of the 1996 act are available for the American people. I commend this article to our colleagues and to anyone who believes that competition hasn't materialized. Ameritech is leading the way. Let us encourage the FCC to follow.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Sept. 22, 1997]

IT'S THE PHONE MAN AT THE DOOR—AND HE HAS A DEAL ON CABLE TV—AS COMPETITION BREAKS OUT, A TRAVELING SALESMAN FINDS A JADED AUDIENCE

(By Bryan Gruley)

ST. CLAIR SHORES, MI.—On a quiet street of neat frame houses, soaring oak trees and fluttering U.S. flags, William Kline stands in his driveway talking about cable television.

Actually, he's yelling.

The 73-year-old retiree is furious with his cable provider, Comcast Corp. "They raise the damn prices whenever they want," he says. He also hates the programs. "Who wants to watch that crap? Who wants to watch 'The Simpsons?'" And he is no fan of the customer service, either.

Listening patiently is Thomas Roland, a fresh-faced young salesman who hopes to persuade Mr. Kline to dump Comcast and switch to Ameritech New Media, a unit of Ameritech Corp., the Chicago Baby Bell. "It sounds like you're pretty upset," Mr. Roland says. "If you don't like the way your cable company has treated you, that's why we're here."

Something alien to most Americans is emerging in the suburbs of Detroit: head-to-head competition for cable-TV service. Telephone giant Ameritech is building cable systems and offering an alternative to consumers who have long had to live with the prices and service of a sole local provider—or go without cable. Mr. Roland and other salespeople in brick-red Ameritech jackets scurry door-to-door bearing gifts in black shoulder bags: Coupons for \$10 monthly discounts. Free premium channels and installation. Round-the-clock customer phone lines. Nifty on-screen TV listings and high-tech remote controls.

They are looking for people like Duane Lamers, a retired school administrator who buys cable service from the local system of Tele-Communications Inc., of Englewood, Colo. "I've been champing at the bit," he says, ushering Mr. Roland into his home in suburban Troy, Mich. "Anything's better than what I've got now."

Sitting at his kitchen table, Mr. Lamers signs up with American and lists the beefs he has with TCI. "The slightest weather change and I end up with three or four snow channels," he says. Outages always seem to interrupt his favorite show, the NewsHour With Jim Lehrer, he says, and he has given up trying to get service restored quickly. Mr. Roland commiserates: "That's what I've been hearing from other people."

"I'VE GOT THE EDGE"

Ronald Hargreaves, 69, chose to stay with TCI but figures he gained anyway. Soon after Ameritech launched service in Troy, TCI gave him a local sports channel free. (TCI says it was contractually required to do so.) "Now I've got the edge," the hardware-store worker says. "You can either give me service or I can go someplace else with my \$30 a month."

That is precisely what was supposed to happen as a result of last year's telecommunications law. But cable remains a monopoly in most cities, mostly because the big phone companies that were expected to challenge it prefer to focus on their core business. Some small towns have built rival cable systems, and other tiny pockets of competition have sprouted. But cable operators control 87% of the U.S. multichannel video market, the Federal Communications Commission says.

Ameritech is the big exception. With cable franchises in more than 50 cities in Michigan, Ohio and Illinois, the Baby Bell is wooing longtime customers of Comcast, TCI, Time Warner Corp. and other cable giants. Ameritech says it signs up one of every three households it approaches, more than expected when it began service last year. The launch is expensive; Ameritech doesn't expect cable to show profit for several years.

NO SHORTCUTS

But Richard Notebaert, Ameritech's chairman and chief executive, says offering cable TV is part of a long-term plan to deliver a single bundle of voice, video and data services into homes. "There are no shortcuts," he says. "You have to commit resources and find out if your model works. Ours is working very well."

As Ameritech captures some customers and incumbent providers win back others, competition expands the Michigan cable market, the companies agree. Ameritech says as many as 8% of its subscribers didn't take cable before. And monthly subscriber charges for MediaOne, the cable arm of Denver-based US West Media Group, have grown about 20% in Canton Township, Mich., during the past year even as Ameritech added 1,700 subscribers, according to the companies and reports filed with the township.